

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ALEXAN 00497 180947Z
ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0855

C O N F I D E N T I A L ALEXANDRIA 0497

FOLTEL SENT ACTION CAIRO FROM ALEX JUN 17

C O N F I D E N T I A L ALEXANDRIA 0497

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EINV, EG
SUBJECT: MININDUSTRY SHAHIN

REF: ALEXANDRIA 0487, CAIRO 9988

1. YESTERDAY AFTERNOON IN GENERAL CONVERSATION WITH JUST RETIRED
GENERAL MANAGER MAJOR PUBLIC SECTOR CORPORATION DEPUTY PRINCIPAL
OFFICER INQUIRED ABOUT BASIS OF MININD SHAHIN'S CONTINUING INFLUENCE
IN GOE. RESPONSE WAS A SNORT THEN FOLLOWING MELANGE OF GOSSIP
AND HOPEFULLY, FACT.

2. MININD'S BROTHER MOHAMMED, HAS A SON WHO IS MARRIED TO LATE
PRESIDENT NASSER'S SISTER. IN ADDITION BROTHER MOHAMMED - WHO IS
QUOTE CORRUPT UNQUOTE - HAS QUOTE CERTAIN BUSINESS DEALINGS UNQUOTE
WITH MRS. SADAT. HOWEVER, MOST IMPORTANTLY PRESIDENT SADAT AND
MININD SHAHIN ARE FROM THE SAME PROVINCE AND IN THE DARKER DAYS OF
SADAT'S CAREER WHEN HE WAS NEARLY FRIENDLESS AND WITHOUT INFLUENCE
SHAHIN, WHO APPARENTLY WAS HOLDING IMPORTANT POST IN ALEXANDRIA,
REMAINED SADAT'S FRIEND. DURING THESE YEARS SHAHIN WAS ALWAYS KIND
AND CONSIDERATE WITH SADAT AND HONORED HIM AS A FRIEND AND
PATRIOT. SADAT HAS NEVER FORGOTTEN THIS TREATMENT AND AS A
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RESULT SHAHIN TODAY HAS HIS FULL CONFIDENCE AND SADAT IS BLIND TO
ANY CRITICISM OF HIM.

3. IN CONVERSATION WITH CONSUL GENERAL, DISCUSSING HIS MEETINGS
WITH SHAHIN WHEN HE WAS ASU REGIONAL SECRETARY IN ALEXANDRIA,
SENIOR FSL MENTIONED THAT IN RECENT SPEECH (SOMETIME LAST MONTH)
SADAT WENT OUT OF HIS WAY TO PRAISE SHAHIN. ALLEGEDLY SADAT CALLED

HIM FINEST ENGINEER IN EGYPT WHO IS LOYALLY SERVING GOE. SADAT SAID SHAHIN HAD COURAGEOUSLY OPPOSED ALY SABRY AND "THE CENTERS OF POWER" WHEN SABRY WAS DANGEROUSLY POWERFUL. SADAT ALSO PRAISED SHAHIN'S BROTHER WHO, HE SAID, HAD TRAVELLED TO US "ON EXPORT BUSINESS" AND "GAINED MANY DOLLARS FOR EGYPT".

4. THIS MENTION OF THE SHAHINS MAY WELL RELATE TO QUESTION RAISED EARLIER IN PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY CRITICAL OF MININD SHAHIN'S PURCHASE OF JAPANESE SPINNING AND LOOMING MACHINERY FROM COMPANY BROTHER WAS AGENT FOR. SHAHIN IS SAID TO HAVE TOLD ASSEMBLY THAT IT WAS STRAIGHT, COMPETITIVE BUSINESS DEAL AND THAT BROTHER HAD BEEN AGENT FOR THAT COMPANY FOR THIRTY YEARS, "LONG BEFORE I WAS ANYBODY." CHASE

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